

March 28, 1984

LB 761

request 2609.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Which is the first one, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have, "add the following new section", Senator, that one.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I have grave concerns about licensing bills generally, especially when you get down to defining functions that you may have some serious questions about how professional those functions are. This bill, as I understand the intention of the introducers, was not intended to require licensing necessarily in order to perform the functions of occupational therapy. The idea, according to the introducers, was to allow that sort of accreditation so that persons could have those credentials if they so chose. To make that intention a little clearer, what my amendment does is to say that nothing in the act shall be construed to prevent an unlicensed person from performing the functions described in this bill as occupational therapy. So it clarifies the intent which is to allow a person to get a license if they so choose, but if they do not so choose, they can still perform the functions of occupational therapy. That is the intent of the amendment. I would ask its adoption, Mr. Speaker.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I would support the Beutler amendment. It does clarify again the intent of the bill. Very simply, the original bill, LB 314, I think was the bill number, said that if you did certain things then you had to be licensed as an occupational therapist. But we found at the hearing on that bill last year that a lot of people did those things and they weren't all occupational therapists. They were physical therapists. They were other types of therapists and you couldn't just say if you did these certain things, you had to be an occupational therapist. It was strongly